

Town of Rowe – FY2013
Board of Selectmen – Meeting Minutes
MBI Broadband Presentation
Wednesday, February 13, 2012 – 1:30pm
Rowe Town Hall

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wilson at 1:30pm.

Present: Chairman Marilyn Wilson, Vice Chairman Paul McLatchy III, and Selectman Noel Abbott

Also Present: Town Coordinator Ellen Miller, Emergency Management Director Ed May, Library Director Sue Gleason, Rowe School Principal Bill Knittle, Broadband Committee member David Dvore

Guests: Donna Baron, MBI Broadband Project Director; Fred Feit, AXIA NGNetworks USA

Donna Baron and Fred Feit reported on the status of the high speed fiber being brought to the town's five Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs)—the Town Hall, Fire Station, Library, School and Gracy House— via the state's Mass Broadband Initiative (MBI). The fiber will be ready to be lit by the end of April.

The Town Hall's current provider is Crocker Communications at \$79.95 per month for DSL service. There is no service at this time at the Fire Station, Rowe School or Gracy House. Prior to the school fire, service there was provided by Crocker Communications at the cost of \$632 per quarter for T-1 service. The Library also has T-1 service (DSL is not available). The cost and provider are not known.

It is unknown what the cost for service could be for each CAI. It was stated that it was not mandatory for a location to obtain service; however, a CAI cannot piggyback on service from another CAI. They suggested we contact Crocker Communications—our current Town Hall provider—for a quote. They are providing month-to-month service to towns. The town was encouraged to get the most savings possible by also incorporating VOIP service (telephony) with internet service. That is where the greatest savings will be.

There will be many last mile providers for businesses and residents in each town. As of now there are approximately 30 providers. Most—if not all—are wireless, which is not necessarily as efficient at actual fiber to each customer. WiredWest is planning on providing fiber to each customer. They are in the process of obtaining funding for their coverage area (approximately 40 towns). FRCOG is maintaining a list of current providers and can provide the town and townspeople with further information.

One town (Leverett) has self-funded fiber build-out to every home in their community. They voted an override for a municipal bond for this project, estimated to cost \$3.6 million. The RFP for construction was issued one month ago, and they will issue another RFP for service. Another town (Warwick) has set up a town-wide wireless network. [Note: This is temporary. Their plan is to switch to WiredWest when that becomes available.]

Mr. Feit offered to come to future meetings to discuss options for the town, and also offered to attend any meetings we have with potential service providers. His contact information is: Frederic.feit@axia.com or 917-463-8611.

Ms. Baron and Mr. Feit were thanked for their presentation.


Adjournment: The Selectboard voted unanimously (3/0/0) to adjourn the meeting at 2:38pm.

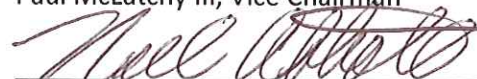
Respectfully submitted,

Ellen B. Miller
Town Coordinator

Approved:


Marilyn Wilson, Chairman


Paul McLatchy III, Vice Chairman


Noel Abbott

Feb 20, 2013

Date Approved

Attachments:

- Agenda
- List of potential service providers